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fixation, i. e., weakening of hæmolysis, will be noted in the corresponding front tubes. If the appearances of the controls previously mentioned are satisfactory, it is permissible to conclude that these sera are positive.

Record the results of the tests, as indicated by the amounts of fixation in these tubes as compared with a specimen showing complete fixation (no hæmolysis) and one showing no fixation (complete hæmolysis) reporting the results as follows:

70 to 100 per cent fixation = "strongly positive."

40 to 70 per cent fixation = "positive."

20 to 40 per cent fixation = "weakly positive."

0 to 20 per cent fixation = "negative."

In actual practice, with the technique described, the experience has been that nearly all sera give either "strongly positive" or "positive" reactions, or are frankly negative.

Diagram of complement fixation test for syphilis.

The squares represent the arrangement of tubes as seen by one looking down on the rack. Inside the squares appear the reagents in the order in which they are introduced together with the amounts. The preliminary phase of the incubation is carried out at 37° C. for 1 hour. Add amboceptor-cell suspension, incubate at 37° for one-half hour, and keep at about 15° C. overnight.

BACK ROW.

Known positive serum.	Known negative serum.	Unknown serum ¹ to be tested for syphilis.	Antigen control.	Hæmolytic system control.	Sheep corpuscle control.
Serum .4 cc. NaCl sol. 1.6 cc. Complement dilution 1 cc. Amboceptor-corpuscle suspension 1 cc.	Serum .4 cc. NaCl solution 1.6 cc. Complement dilution 1 cc. Amboceptor-corpuscle suspension 1 cc.	Serum .4 cc. NaCl solution 1.6 cc. Complement dilution 1 cc. Amboceptor-corpuscle suspension 1 cc.	Antigen suspension 2 cc. Complement dilution 1 cc. Amboceptor-corpuscle suspension 1 cc.	NaCl solution 2 cc. Complement dilution 1 cc. Amboceptor-corpuscle suspension 1 cc.	NaCl solution 3 cc. Amboceptor-corpuscle suspension 1 cc.

FRONT ROW.

Antigen suspension 1 cc. Serum .2 cc. NaCl solution .8 cc. Complement dilution 1 cc. Amboceptor-corpuscle suspension 1 cc.	Antigen suspension 1 cc. Serum .2 cc. NaCl solution .8 cc. Complement dilution 1 cc. Amboceptor-corpuscle suspension 1 cc.	Antigen suspension 1 cc. Serum .2 cc. NaCl solution .8 cc. Complement dilution 1 cc. Amboceptor-corpuscle suspension 1 cc.			
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¹ But one tube shown in diagram.

STERILIZATION OF THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE AND INSANE.

A Michigan law providing for the sterilization of mental defectives or insane persons maintained wholly or in part by public expense in public institutions has been declared unconstitutional by the Michigan

Supreme Court¹ because it arbitrarily selected for sterilization those confined in institutions. The opinion shows that out of what might be termed a natural class of defective and incompetent persons the legislature selected only those already under public restraint, leaving immune from its operation all others of like kind to whom the reason for the legislative remedy is normally and equally, at least, applicable. For this reason the law is said to come under the constitutional prohibition against class legislation. The court did not pass upon the constitutionality of the principle of sterilization of defective and insane persons, as the point just considered was the only one raised in the proceeding.

¹ Haynes, Superintendent of Michigan Home and Training School, *v.* Lapeer, Circuit Judge, decided by Michigan Supreme Court Mar. 28, 1918, quoted 166 Northwestern Reporter 938. The law found unconstitutional is Michigan Public Acts, 1913, No. 34.